

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The House Appropriations Committee today voted to advance its funding bill for the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration. The bill will be voted on later this month by the full House of Representatives, where it is expected to pass with funding intact.

"Farming and agriculture are so important to our communities, not only to our farmers but to our families who rely on organic produce and children nationwide who benefit from more fruits and vegetables in their schools," said Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel). "It's exciting that over the past two years, federal support for specialty crops has seen drastic increases. I will continue to lead Congress in reforming our farming policies to ensure that California gets a fair share of federal funding."

**Program details:**

- \$2.69 million for the U.S. Agricultural Research Station in Salinas.
- \$594,000 for a Monterey Bay Sanctuary water quality protection program. Funds will help target sources of polluted runoff including sediments, nitrates and pesticides.

More than \$850,000 for the Agriculture Research Service in Salinas:

- \$474,223 for verticillium wilt research
- \$223,573 for greenhouse lettuce germplasm research
- \$159,036 for organic minor crop research

More than \$30 million for California pest and disease control:

- \$24.2 million for Glassy-winger Sharpshooter/Pierce's Disease
- \$6.5 million for Sudden Oak Death
- \$831,000 to continue funding a cooperative agreement with the California County Pest Detection Augmentation Program

Additional programs:

- \$10 million for a specialty crop competitiveness program.
- \$35 million to bolster the Food and Drug Administration's food safety programs. The bill also suggests enforceable standards for food safety, such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points.
- \$21 million to expand a fruit and vegetable pilot program for schools nationwide.
- Instructions are also provided to combat the light brown apple moth and to provide for a Simplified Summer Food Program.

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